

# MAY 2022 LABOUR MARKET UPDATE

This monthly update is produced by Fife Council using figures released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). All data are provisional on the date of their release and subject to revision.

## CLAIMANT RATE (May 2022)

*% of working age (16-64) residents claiming out-of-work benefits (Jobseeker's Allowance or Universal Credit)*

|                     |                         |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>3.7%</b><br>Fife | <b>3.3%</b><br>Scotland | <b>3.8%</b><br>United Kingdom |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|

Source: ONS Claimant Count

In May, Fife's claimant rate was 0.1 percentage points lower than the previous month, as the estimated number of people claiming out-of-work benefits in the region fell (from 8,845 to 8,615). This rate was 2.4 percentage points lower than a year ago in May 2021 (5.9%), and 0.1 percentage points lower than the pre-pandemic March 2020 rate (3.8%).

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Jan – Dec 2021)

*% of economically active residents aged over 16 who are without a job but are seeking/waiting to start a job.*

|                     |                         |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>4.1%</b><br>Fife | <b>3.9%</b><br>Scotland | <b>4.4%</b><br>United Kingdom |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey (the Fife unemployment rate is a model-based estimate)

The latest unemployment rates for Fife are for the twelve months to December 2021. During this period, an estimated 6,700 people were unemployed and Fife's unemployment rate was 0.3 percentage points lower than the previous period (Oct 2020 to Sep 2021) and the same level as in Jan-Dec 2019 (pre-pandemic). Fife's employment rate for the period (68.3%) however was lower than prior to the pandemic (73.7% in Jan-Dec 2019).

## ECONOMIC INACTIVITY (Jan – Dec 2021)

*% of working age (16-64) residents who are neither working nor seeking or available to work.*

|                      |                          |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>26.2%</b><br>Fife | <b>23.8%</b><br>Scotland | <b>21.8%</b><br>United Kingdom |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Fife's economic inactivity rate increased from 23.2% in Jan-Dec 2019 to 26.2% as the estimated number of people who were neither in employment nor unemployed increased from 53,100 to 58,700.

## PROFILE OF FIFE CLAIMANTS

### 2.1 Breakdown by Type of Claimant

| May 2022                                      | Claimant Rate | Claimant Count | Claimant Count - monthly change |
|---|---------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| People searching for work on Universal Credit | 3.4%          | 7,963          | -207 ↓                          |
| Jobseeker's Allowance claimants               | 0.3%          | 653            | -16 ↓                           |

Source: Department for Work & Pensions; ONS Jobseeker's Allowance

### 2.2 Breakdown by Age & Gender

| May 2022                          | Claimant Rate | Claimant Count | Claimant Count - monthly change |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 16-24 year olds claiming benefits | 3.8%          | 1,525          | -40 ↓                           |
| 25-49 year olds claiming benefits | 4.5%          | 5,055          | -135 ↓                          |
| 50+ year olds claiming benefits   | 2.5%          | 2,035          | -50 ↓                           |
| Male claimants                    | 4.8%          | 5,395          | -160 ↓                          |
| Female claimants                  | 2.7%          | 3,220          | -70 ↓                           |

Source: ONS Claimant Count

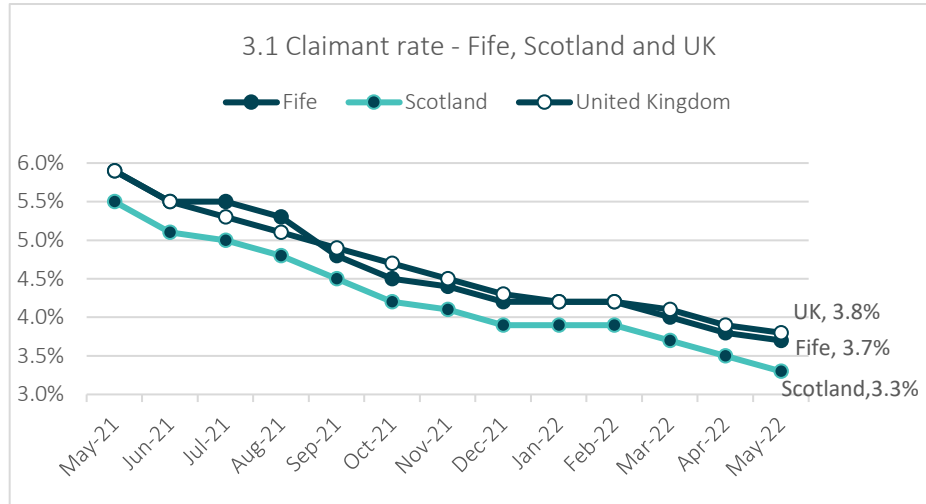
### 2.3 Area Committee Summary (May 2022)

*In this area summary, a monthly change is given for both the claimant count and rate. For the claimant rate, the change represents the difference in percentage points between this month's claimant rate and last month's rate. NB all data are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not precisely add to the sum of the number of people claiming JSA, published on Nomis, and the number of people claiming Universal Credit required to seek work, published by the Department of Work and Pensions, due to independent rounding.*

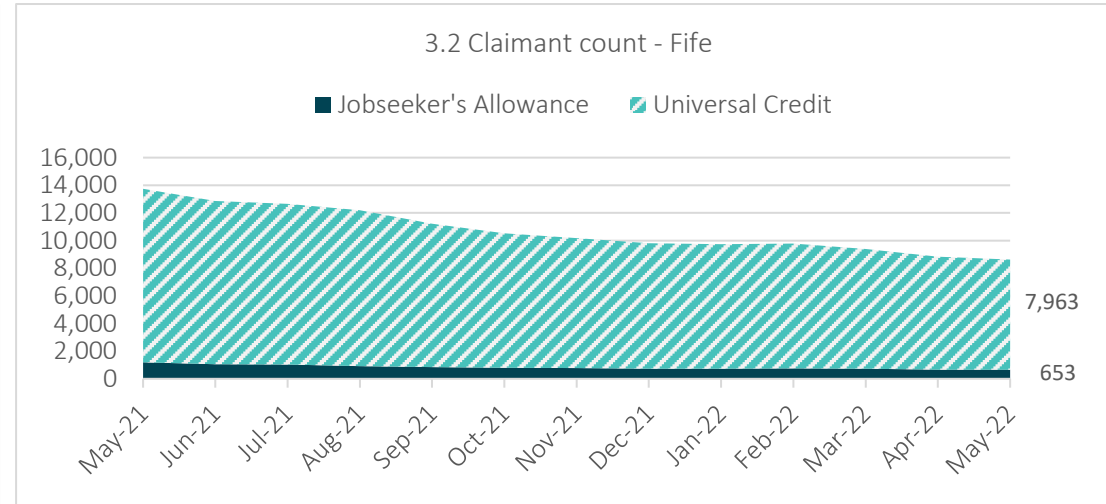
| May 2022          | Claimant Rate | Monthly change | Claimant Count | Monthly change | Female | Male  |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------|-------|
| Cowdenbeath       | 4.9%          | -0.1 ↓         | 1,260          | -30 ↓          | 440    | 820   |
| Dunfermline       | 3.2%          | +0.1 ↑         | 1,170          | +5 ↑           | 465    | 705   |
| Glenrothes        | 3.4%          | -0.1 ↓         | 1,045          | -20 ↓          | 405    | 640   |
| Kirkcaldy         | 5.7%          | -0.1 ↓         | 2,100          | -25 ↓          | 780    | 1,320 |
| Levenmouth        | 5.7%          | -0.3 ↓         | 1,300          | -65 ↓          | 450    | 850   |
| North East Fife   | 1.8%          | -0.1 ↓         | 830            | -55 ↓          | 310    | 515   |
| South & West Fife | 2.8%          | -0.1 ↓         | 860            | -30 ↓          | 350    | 510   |

Source: ONS Claimant Count

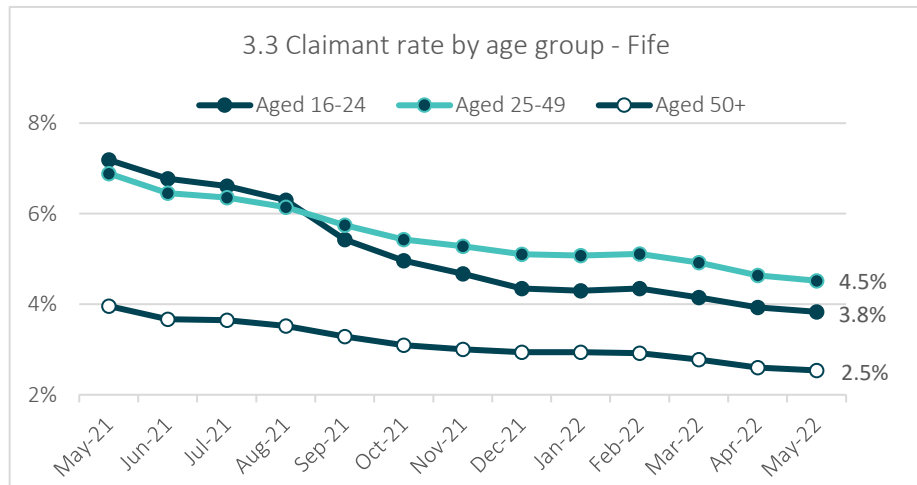
## BREAKDOWN & COMPARISONS OF KEY INDICATORS



Source: ONS Claimant Count



Source: ONS Jobseeker's Allowance; Department for Work and Pensions

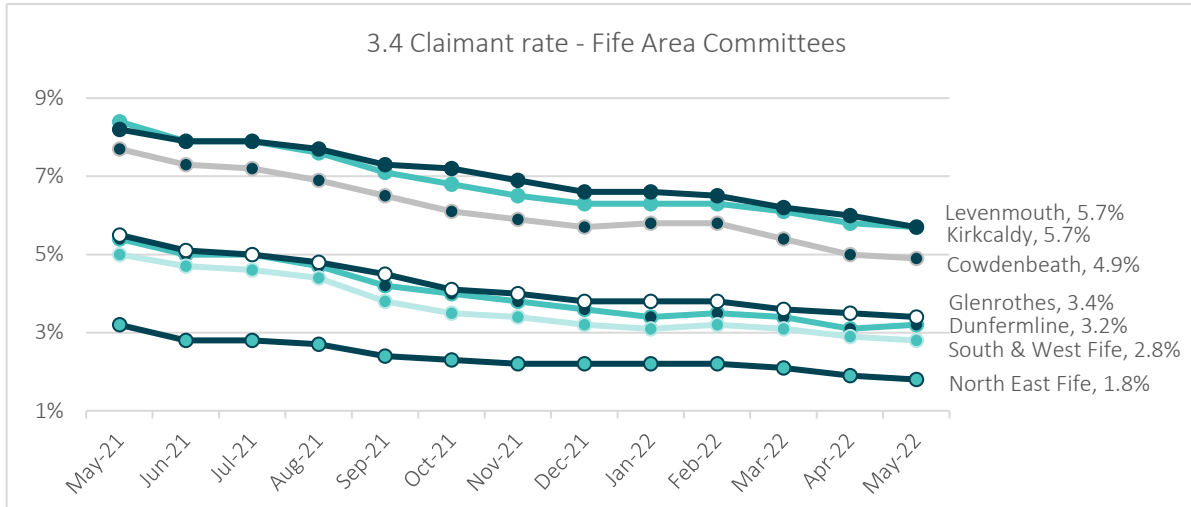


Source: ONS Claimant Count

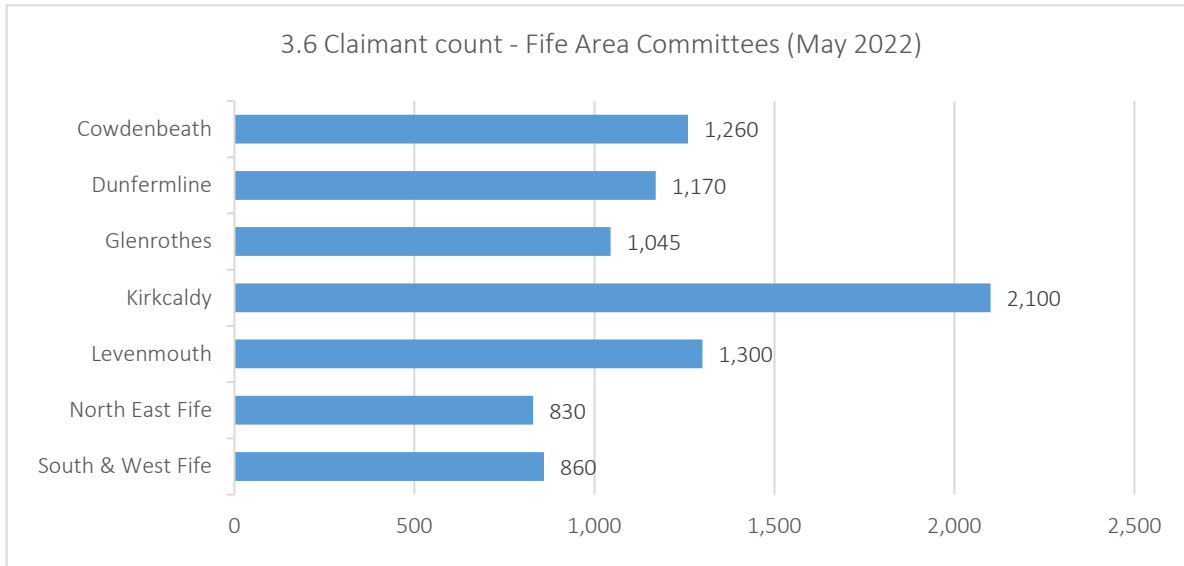
There were **207 fewer people claiming Universal Credit** in Fife compared with the previous month and 4,589 fewer than in May 2021. The **number of JSA claimants decreased by 17 people** between April and May 2022 and fell by 538 between May 2021 and May 2022 (Table 2.1).

The **50+ age group saw the proportionally lowest monthly decrease in the number of claimants (-2.4%)**; the **25–49-year-old age group had the highest claimant rate (4.5%)** for the 9th consecutive month (Table 2.2 and Graph 3.3).

The number of female claimants fell by -70 people or -2.1%, a lower rate of decrease than male claimants (-160 people or -2.9%). Fife's **male claimant rate (4.8%)** however remains significantly higher than the female rate (2.7%) (Table 2.2).



Source: ONS Claimant Count



Source: ONS Claimant Count

### 3.5 Claimant Rate by Ward (May 2022)

| HIGHEST                             |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Kirkcaldy East                      | 7.8% |
| Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss Villages | 7.5% |
| Kirkcaldy Central                   | 7.4% |
| LOWEST                              |      |
| Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay         | 2.0% |
| Tay Bridgehead                      | 1.5% |
| St Andrews                          | 0.9% |

Source: ONS Claimant Count

**Dunfermline** was the only committee area where claimant numbers and rates were higher than the previous month (Table 2.3 and Graph 3.4).

**Kirkcaldy East, Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss Villages, and Kirkcaldy Central** remained the electoral wards with the highest claimant rates in Fife (Table 3.5).

### 3.7 Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region



Claimant Rate by Local Authority

|                   | Apr 2022 | May 2022 | Monthly change |   | Annual change |   |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------------|---|---------------|---|
| City of Edinburgh | 2.5%     | 2.4%     | -0.1           | ↓ | -2.2          | ↓ |
| East Lothian      | 2.6%     | 2.4%     | -0.2           | ↓ | -2.2          | ↓ |
| Fife              | 3.8%     | 3.7%     | -0.1           | ↓ | -2.2          | ↓ |
| Midlothian        | 2.6%     | 2.4%     | -0.2           | ↓ | -2.4          | ↓ |
| Scottish Borders  | 3.2%     | 3.0%     | -0.2           | ↓ | -1.9          | ↓ |
| West Lothian      | 2.8%     | 2.7%     | -0.1           | ↓ | -2.3          | ↓ |

Source: ONS Claimant Count

Angus was the only Local Authority in both city regions not to see its claimant rate fall in May. As in previous months, **Fife's claimant rate (3.7%) was the second highest after Dundee (4.3%).**

Between 2019 and 2027, the Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Region Deal is investing £25 million in pilot employability and skills projects targeted at those furthest from the workplace. The programme will improve 14,700 people's skills and move 5,300 people into employment.

### 3.8 Tay Cities Region



Claimant Rate by Local Authority

|                 | Apr 2022 | May 2022 | Monthly change |   | Annual change |   |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------------|---|---------------|---|
| Angus           | 2.9%     | 2.9%     | 0.0            | ▬ | -2.0          | ↓ |
| Dundee          | 4.4%     | 4.3%     | -0.1           | ↓ | -2.2          | ↓ |
| North East Fife | 1.9%     | 1.8%     | -0.1           | ↓ | -1.8          | ↓ |
| Perth & Kinross | 2.6%     | 2.4%     | -0.2           | ↓ | -1.9          | ↓ |

Source: ONS Claimant Count

The Tay Cities Region Deal is investing up to £700m in projects expected to support over 6,000 jobs.

The Tay Cities Region captures North East Fife only, and the Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region covers an area in the South and West of Fife (maps 3.7 and 3.8).

NB Care should be taken when using these geographies

## CLAIMANT COUNT STATISTICS

The claimant counts and claimant rates given in this update are based on experimental data collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The claimant count represents the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus the number of people on Universal Credit who are required to search for work and are available for work.

Universal Credit replaces six legacy benefits and tax credits (including Jobseeker's Allowance and Income-related Employment and Support Allowance) and was fully introduced in Fife on 6 January 2017 after initially going live in the region in April 2016.

Universal Credit requires more people to look for work than was the case for legacy benefits; new claimants who are waiting on or appealing Work Capability Assessments are also required to look for work.

The claimant count dataset is still classified by the ONS as experimental statistics. This status is likely to continue until the roll out of Universal Credit is completed - expected in 2022. Please note that care should therefore be taken when analysing and interpreting the figures.

Both Claimant Count, Jobseekers Allowance and Universal Credit statistics are provisional on their date of release and are subject to revision.

For more information and to access all the labour market statistics from official sources for the UK visit [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk).

For further information about the contents of this publication, or to request any bespoke economic information, please contact:

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